

1 **ABSTRACT**

2 The invention provides a method and system for quickly and preemptively
3 controlling the outbreak of destructive software applications sent in an electronic
4 messaging system. Such system and method provide an additional component to an
5 electronic messaging system to detect and block possible malicious applications in
6 attachments of electronic messages. The additional component can be customized to suit
7 the electronic messaging system and reconfigured to accommodate future virus threats.